

unfunded mandates on our state budget. I doubt if there is a senator here who in your committees has not run into this problem, who have not run in...so often at the federal level it is easy to pass federal legislation, and I know that our representatives have an interest in that but that those funds do not follow to the state government, and the state government is required to carry out those things with state funds. This is designed primarily as an invitation to have a personal dialogue with our congressional representatives to visit about unfunded mandates and how this state is going to deal with those into the future. I believe that we can't do anything about it legally, so if we can't do it legally, we begin to do it in a very informal manner and begin that dialogue. Now two other states in this country have done that. I would like Nebraska to become the third. With that, I would ask for the passage of LR 283.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Discussion on LR 283, the Chair recognizes Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, want to echo Senator Kristensen's comments on his resolution. I think it's important you understand those in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, so to speak, as we are criticized for passing mandates on down to government's below us. I am perfectly aware of that but just like I think it's important in the Legislature we have a process in the Fiscal Office where we try and ascertain the cost of a bill on local governments when we can. We send those requests out to local governments to find those out, and we try, and obviously when all of us go home to our districts, whether in the evenings or whether on weekends, or whenever it is, we are talking to our local officials and we are well aware of the costs associated with those things that we are doing and the cost they may or may not mandate upon local governments. At the federal level just because for one there is not the interaction on a timely basis like maybe there is with all of us and our constituents on the local level, I think something like this is good encouragement. I have...there is legislation, particularly Senate Bill 993, Kempthorne Act, who has fifty some cosponsors back in Washington, D.C., I have been in communication with both of or our entire delegation. I think things with mandates on the federal level, it is like when we do things to local governments, the federal government does it to us. I think Senator Kristensen's resolution is simply a good way to educate everybody involved about the cost involved. So I would certainly encourage passage of this resolution.